



## SILVER CITY TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

### Project Goal

To protect and establish a network of trails and open space in the community of Silver City, New Mexico.

### Background

The Town of Silver City, along with several local advocacy groups has become very interested in protecting trails and open space as key contributors to the livability and quality of life of the community. Land use development patterns are threatening open space and traditional trail access at the same time that changing demographics are increasing demands for these resources. The community hopes to develop an open space and trails master plan that will include a connecting trail system for hiking, biking and equestrians, with accommodations for handicapped accessibility, watershed protection, flood mitigation, and linkages to the Gila National Forest and other public lands.

Several pieces of the plan are already underway, including a Recreational and Reuse Plan for Boston Hill, a 500-acre site recently purchased by the Town and designated as open space. Partial funding for the Boston Hill project has been obtained through an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Grant. Initial on-the-ground trail projects on Boston Hill and other protected public open space will serve as demonstration projects to promote public support and involvement in the planning process.

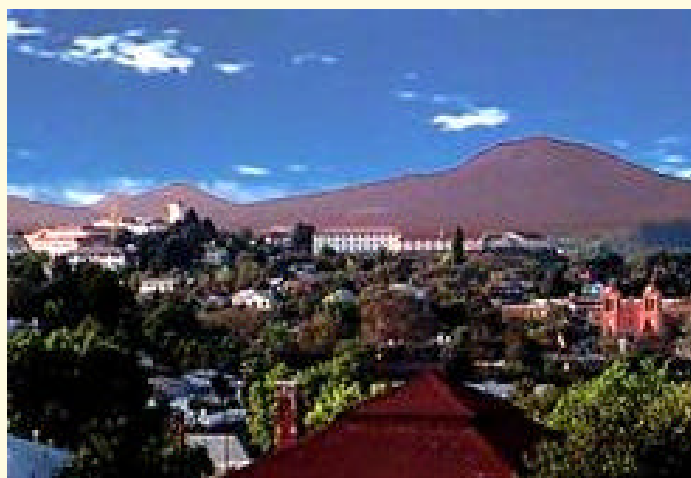
### National Park Service Role

The project partners have requested NPS assistance with:

- Organizing a citizens' steering committee to lead the planning effort.

- Facilitating community meetings to solicit input, and build consensus and support.
- Helping to produce the Open Space and Trails Master Plan for the Town.
- Providing technical support for the development of the Boston Hill reuse plan.
- Locating potential funding sources for implementing plan proposals.
- Supporting the development of informational maps and brochures.

### Silver City, New Mexico



### Project Results to Date

- An initial public meeting and informal survey indicate strong support for protecting and establishing trails.
- A Citizens committee has been organized to lead the planning effort.
- Preliminary proposals have been drafted for trails development in Boston Hill, implementation funding is being sought through the NM Recreation Trails Fund.

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- A subcommittee is initiating work on a Big Ditch trail/greenway.
- Funds have been obtained through the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support a "Your Town" workshop which will help community leaders to address local land use planning and design issues.



### Project Partners

- Town of Silver City
- Grant County Community Health Council
- Making Trails!
- NM Environment Department
- NM State Land Office
- San Vincente Open Space Group
- Silver City Main Street Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Forest Service
- Western New Mexico University

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